FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT IN DAMASCUS

NC141910 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1800 GMT 14 Dec 79 NC

[Text of PLO Central Council statement issued after 13-14 December meetings in Damascus]

[Text] The PLO Central Council held a meeting in Damascus on Thursday, 13 December 1979, under the chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and attended by the PLO Executive Committee chairman and members and representatives of all the resistance movement groups. The council discussed topics on its agenda in an atmosphere in which national unity and free democratic dialog prevailed.

The PLO Central Council adopted the following recommendations:

1. The encroachments of the Libyan regime against the PLO: The council reviewed the stands and measures which the Libyan regime has adopted toward the PLO and its departments since Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech on 29 November 1979. The speech included an unjustified campaign against the PLO, its commands and groups as well as an incitement to violate its offices and branches in fraternal Libya. The speech also motivated certain elements linked with Libyan organs to carry out the so-called revolutionary marches to form revolutionary committees. These actions contradict the simplest democratic principles on which our Palestinian people concurred at their national council meetings.

In the statements Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made to AFP and the New York TIMES he violated the sacred nature of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's struggle and achievements. He also harmed the PLO's commands and the Palestinian political organizations. In addition he tried to instigate Arab brothers against the PLO. He declared his unexpected stand on his relationship with the United States at a time when our Palestinian people and the Arab nation are continuing the struggle to foil the schemes aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question rejecting the Camp David agreements and the so-called autonomy for our occupied homeland.

The PLO Central Council reviewed the information campaign that has been launched in Libya for some time noting that the campaign escalated after the 10th Arab summit conference held in Tunis. This summit constituted a positive step at the pan-Arab level to strengthen Arab solidarity along with the ninth Baghdad Arab summit resolutions. In light of these resolutions the council unanimously supported the statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee noting that the statement is characterized by a feeling of responsibility, self-restraint, positive spirit and concern about Arab solidarity, fraternal Arab relations and avoidance of all differences that might dissipate the Arabs' intrinsic strength in confronting enemy plans.

The PLO Central Council stressed the PLO's concern about nonintervention in the internal affairs of any Arab country, and at the same time its refusal to allow any Arab side to interfere in the internal affairs of the PLO and its organizations whatever the source of this intervention.

The PLO Central Council condemned interference in the Palestinian people's affairs by fraternal Libya represented in its action of forcing the Palestinian people to encounter experiences that would threaten their national unity and make their daily life more difficult.

The PLO Central Council expressed its appreciation of the patriotic stand adopted by the masses of our people manifested in their adherence to the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative and leader of their struggle.

The PLO Central Council denounced the Libyan regime's unjust and unjustified attacks against the Palestinain people, the PLO leadership and the Palestinian organizations' commands. It condemned the deportation of the PLO representative from Libya in a matter contrary to all traditions of fraternal struggle and political norms.

The PLO Central Council stressed its great appreciation for the important fraternal relations between the PLO and fraternal Libya. The Palestinian leadership expressed these relations by denouncing a series of stands adopted in past years and the noble Libyan people expressed these relations in their cohesion with the Palestinian people and sacrifices for the struggle to liberate Palestine.

In conclusion, the PLO Central Council called on the fraternal Libyan leadership to stop its information campaigns and measures in order to avoid dissipation of Arab strength.

The PLO Central Council stressed the need to exert efforts to establish sound fraternal relations between the PLO and fraternal Libya. It stressed that it blesses all good efforts on all levels aimed at achieving this--including the Arab League and the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation--so as to safeguard the unity of Palestinian representation through the PLO, its organizations and branches.

2. The PLO's political activity in the current stage: The Central Council heard reports from the PLO Executive Committee chairman, the PNC chairman and the PLO Executive Committee members on the PLO's political activities on Arab and international levels. After thorough discussions of these reports, the Central Council highly praised these activities and the positive results achieved at the Havana nonalined summit conference, the 10th Arab summit conference in Tunis and the UN General Assembly's 43rd session, as well as the official visits made by the PLO Executive Committee chairman and members and by the PNC chairman to a number of countries and their attendance at popular and official conferences. The PLO Central Council submitted recommendations to follow up these efforts.

3. Our people's struggle in our occupied land: The PLO Central Council reviewed the latest developments in our occupied land and expressed great appreciation of the splendid patriotic upsurge which our people launched in confronting occupation, the autonomy plot, the policy of settlement and deportation and the attempt to banish Nabulus Major brother struggler Bassam ash-Shak'ah. Our people's upsurge was a manifestation of the struggling cohesion of our people and all their organizations as well as their adherence to the PLO as representative and leader of the Palestinian people and their struggle. This upsurge stressed our people's determination to achieve their inalienable national rights to return to their homeland, to determine their future and to establish their own independent state on their national soil. The PLO Central Council discussed ways to strengthen our people's steadfastness and escalate their struggle in all fields.

4. Palestinian-Lebanese relations: The PLO Central Council reviewed Lebanese-Palestinian relations on official and popular levels in light of the Tunis summit conference resolutions. It heard reports from the PLO Executive Committee concerning these resolutions and their implementation.

The council expressed its satisfaction with the positive results of these resolutions stressing the PLO's concern about Lebanon's independence, unity, security and stability as well as condemnation of continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon and southern Lebanon and occupation of parts of southern Lebanon under the cover of Israel's agent tools.

The PLO Central Council stressed its concern over Palestinaian-Lebanese solidarity in keeping with the resolutions of the Riyadh summit, the Bayt ad-Din conference and the Baghdad and Tunis summits.

5. The PNC recommended that the PLO Central Council refer the issue of convening the 15th session of the PNC to the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC office to take the necessary decision concerning the venue and date for the PNC session. It is a revolution until victory.

FATAH ANNOUNCES MARTRYDOM OF TWO MEMBERS IN NICOSIA

NC160632 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[15 December statement by the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, announcing the martyrdom of two Fatah members in Nicosia]

[Text] The Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, announces the martyrdom of Ibrahim 'Abd al-'Aziz Brarit and Samir Na'im 'Izzat Tuqan, who fell on the evening of Saturday, 15 December, by the bullets of Israeli intelligence after leaving the PLO office in Nicosia. Through its intelligence services the Zionist enemy laid in ambush and opened fire on them. They fell as heroic martyrs on the path of the continuing revolution and armed struggle, baptizing with their pure blood the pioneer role of the Fatah movement in waging the hardest struggles against the enemies of our people and nation.

Israel Blamed

NC160634 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Statement by responsible security source at the Palestinian revolution--read by announcer]

[Text] The one who committed the crime of assassinating the two martyrs, Ibrahim 'Abd al-'Aziz Brarit, alias Abu Safwat, and Samir Tuqan, is the security officer of terrorist Menahem Begin, the prime minister of the Zionist entity, who is entrusted with the task of pursuing the Palestinian revolutionaries. Terrorist Begin appointed this official in the wake of the Zionist Knesset decision at the beginning of last year to annihilate the Palestinian people, their leadership and cadres and the fighters of the PLO wherever they may be. This terrorist sent several armed terrorist groups to several countries in the world to pursue the representatives of the Palestinian revolution and its cadres.

Central Committee Meeting

NC161800 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Fatah movement Central Committee held an important meeting at noon today during which the committee discussed developments in the area and the Libyan regime's continuing acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian revolution. The Israeli enemy is at the same time escalating its aggression against the revolution's leaders by assassinating the two heroic martyrs, Ibrahim 'Abd al-'Aziz and Samir Tuqan, in Cyprus yesterday.

The Central Committee also discussed the Israeli Government's decision that the office of Israeli Prime Minister Begin carry out operations aimed at hunting down and assassinating the cadres of the Palestinian revolution and of its command, and at spreading its terrorism among the ranks of the Palestinian people.

The Central Committee adopted a number of important decisions related to all the topics it discussed.

PLO DENIES ASKING FOR ARAB MEDIATION WITH LIBYA

NC170813 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Contrary to what has been published, broadcast or rumored regarding a request that the Palestinian revolution has made to some Arab parties to mediate with the Libyan regime, a responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following: The Palestinian revolution affirms that it has not asked anyone for such mediation. All the Palestinian revolution has done is to ask for discussion of the suspect aggression which the Libyan regime is conducting against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people, within the proper frameworks, namely the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front or an Arab summit conference.

We would like to point out that the Libyan regime's aggression against the Palestinian people and their armed revolution at this delicate time falls in the category of plotting against this people and their revolution, and this demands resorting to the frameworks, not to mediation.

VOP REPORTS CLOSURE OF BENGHAZI PLO OFFICE

NC170809 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Libyan authorities yesterday closed down the PLO office in Benghazi and delivered expulsion orders to brothers Abu Tha'ir, Ibrahim Tubasi, and Abu Jabr.

Meanwhile, at 0300 yesterday the Libyan intelligence authorities surrounded the PLO building in Tripoli with eight civilian vehicles and dispatched armed groups in a clear provocative move toward the PLO office employees. The office exmployees said that they are maintaining self-restraint toward these provocations.

The Libyan authorities officially asked the employees of the PLO office in Tripoli the day before yesterday to hand over their personal weapons, which they keep for self-defense in case of danger. The WAFA political editor, commenting on this abnormal and strange move, said that while two of our cadres have been assassinated in Cyprus by the Zionist intelligence and at a time when many European states permit PLO representatives and cadres to keep arms for self-defense, the Libyan regime is asking the PLO cadres to hand over their personal weapons which they keep in order to face the Israeli decision to liquidate the leaders and cadres of the Palestinian revolution all over the world.

VOL REPORTS SOVIET INVITATION TO PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

NC140740 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 14 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Soviet leadership has invited a Palestinian delegation to visit the Soviet Union. This time the invitation was addressed to the chairman of the Palestine National Council, Khalid al-Fahum, but not to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH LEBANESE SHI'TE LEADERS 15 DEC

NC160830 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received Deputy Husayn al-Husayni, the secretary general of the AMAL movement [a Lebanese Shi'te organization]. The meeting was attended by brother Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of the General Command of the Al-'Asifah Forces; brother Abu al-Walid, the director of the central operations room; and brothers Ahmad al-Qubaysi and Ahmad Isma'il, members of the Political Bureau of the AMAL movement.

During the meeting the two sides discussed various issues pertaining to southern Lebanon and the local situation as well as the strategic and fateful relations between the Palestinian revolution and the AMAL organization.

Agreement was reached on a number of issues and joint steps to confront the plot facing Lebanon and the Arab nation.

'ARAFAT REPEATS READINESS TO SET UP PALESTINIAN STATE

LD170946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 17 Dec 79 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Dec--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has reiterated his readiness to set up a Palestinian state in any part of the West Bank or the Gaza Strip vacated by the Israeli invaders. In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published today, 'Arafat denied reports attributed to him saying that he wants to set up a state in Jericho in the West Bank.

'Arafat affirmed that what he had said was that in his capacity as PLO chairman, he has to carry out the decision taken by the Palestine National Council to set up an independent state in any part of Palestine that is liberated.

In his interview with the Kuwaiti paper, conducted in Amman, 'Arafat referred to the situation in Lebanon and said that he is not worried about the future of the Palestine resistance in Lebanon or its relations with the Lebanese Government authorities. He said: There is no contradiction between the Palestine armed presence and Lebanese sovereignty but there is a contradiction between that sovereignty and the Israeli presence in 790 km of Lebanese territory.

REPORTS OF MILITARY WITHDRAWALS FROM BEIRUT DENIED

JN171102 Doha QNA in Arabic 1046 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Dec--An official Palestinian source in Beirut has denied reports on recent Palestinian military withdrawals from the Lebanese capital.

In a statement to today's Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN the source said that these reports are absolutely false and that only offices belonging to Palestinian resistance organizations in west Beirut and outside the Palestinian refugee camps and the areas around them have been closed.

AL-WATAN says that this denial follows reports on the Palestinian resistance's intention to vacate some Palestinian military positions in Beirut and hand them over to the Lebanese Army.

BAHRAIN

GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES REMAINING OIL PRODUCTION MEANS, RIGHTS

JN150842 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0810 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Dec--Bahrain today took possession of all oil production means and rights.

An agreement transferring full possession of the oil production means and rights was signed today between the Government of Bahrain and the Bahrain Petroleum Company, Limited[BAPCO]. Under this agreement the remaining 40 percent of the production means and rights will be transferred to the State of Bahrain.

The agreement was signed for Bahrain by Development and Industry Minister Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi and for BAPCO by CALTEX Petroleum Corporation President W. E. Tucker.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Legal Affairs Dr Husayn al-Baharinah and Assistant Under Secretary for Industry and Oil Affairs Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

The Bahraini Government took possession of 60 percent of the oil production means and rights on 1 January 1974. BAPCO will continue to manage and exploit the oil refinery, which is considered one of the most important refineries in the Middle East, and will continue to provide some services to the Bahraini Government in the oil production sphere.

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS: OIL PRODUCTION TO BE CUT BACK ON 1 APR

LD160821 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Dec--Kuwait will begin cutting its oil production, which stands at approximately 2 million barrels a day, by 25 percent as of 1 April 1980, the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS reports today.

Quoting a senior oil official, the paper says that "it is in Kuwait's interest to make this cut without any delay and there will be no change in that date." No official comment is yet available about this report. However, if confirmed, this measure is in line with Kuwait's declared policy of preserving the country's oil wealth and prolonging its existence as long as possible to serve future generations.

According to AL-QABAS, the official said that April is considered "a suitable date" for shrinking Kuwaiti oil production to 1.5 million barrels a day as the world would then be coming out of winter, when demand for oil rises, and consequently "cutting oil at that time will not have any effect on world supplies since demand would begin to drop by then."

MINISTER DENIES PLANS FOR ARAB GULF MEETING

LD161019 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0717 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Dec--The Kuwaiti minister for cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, today denied Saudi press reports that the Arab Gulf countries are planning to hold an urgent summit conference to discuss the current conditions in the region.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, the minister said: "We have heard nothing about this matter and we have made no contacts in this regard. We know nothing about the subject."

The Middle East newspaper said yesterday that contacts were going on among the Arab Gulf countries to fix the date and place of an urgent Arab Gulf summit to discuss the future of the Gulf region in the present critical times and in the face of the current challenges.

ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF SAUDI OIL PRICE HIKE DENIED

LD161358 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Dec--Kuwait today denied any advance knowledge of the decision by three Arab Gulf countries to increase their oil prices. The denial was made by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, who added that it had been "agreed" that increasing oil prices would be announced at the Caracas OPEC conference tomorrow.

Husayn was commenting on the announcement by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar of the increase in their oil prices by $6 per barrel retroactively from 1 November. Husayn, who was speaking to the press, said that "Kuwait's firm policy is to make it a point always not to express its views except through OPEC, because it considers OPEC's cohesion an important factor in its strength and unity.

He described the atmosphere at the forthcoming OPEC conference, according to information received from Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah who arrived in Venezuela today, "as positive and encouraging."

AL-'ATIQI DENIES REPORT OF $2 RAISE IN OIL PRICE

LD170936 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Dec--Kuwaiti Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Atiqi today denied that Kuwait has increased the price of its oil by $2.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS quotes Al-'Atiqi as saying that "Such reports are worthless, particularly as nothing official will be announced prior to the OPEC meeting in Caracas later today."

The paper said that Al-'Atiqi was commenting on an AFP report from Venezuela yesterday which said that Kuwait has decided to increase the price of its oil, which now stands at $21.43 a barrel, by $2.

AS-SIYASAH: U.S. TO BOOST MIDEAST INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY

LD141723 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Dec 79 p 1 LD

[Diplomatic editorial: "U.S. Intelligence Expands Activities in Middle East To Probe Clandestine, Public Currents and as Precaution Against New Surprises"]

[Text] According to diplomatic sources, the United States adopted a decision at a recent National Security Council meeting to expand the strengthen the U.S. intelligence organs in the Middle East in order to obtain information on the various political, religious and nationalist currents, both clandestine and public, in the area.

The sources add that the CIA and U.S. military intelligence have been instructed to expand their activities in the area in order to forestall any surprises.

OMAN

SULTAN 'SLIGHTLY' RESHUFFLES COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

JN141852 Doha QNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 14 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 14 Dec--His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman issued a decision today slightly reshuffling the Council of Ministers. A Ministry of Public Works was created and the Ministry of Environmental Affairs was abolished.

Dr 'Asim aj-Jamali was appointed minister of public works. Dr aj-Jamali had been the minister of environmental affairs, a result of the cabinet reshuffle of 22 May 1979 in which the Ministry of Public Works was turned into a department.

It was also decided that a council called the Council for the Protection of the Environment and the Eradication of Pollution will be formed under the chairmanship of the sultan. The council will protect the environment and eradicate all forms of pollution.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER ANNOUNCES U.S. ARMS PURCHASES

LD161047 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Minister of National Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has announced that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has made a $120 million arms deal for sophisticated weapons with the United States.

In a statement to the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH, published today, the minister says that the deal involves 6,500 bombs and missiles for equipping the F-5 bombers which the kingdom has purchased from the United States. The deal also includes 660 air-to-air Sidewinder missiles and 916 air-to-ground Maverick missiles.

It is recalled that the kingdom will receive at the beginning of next year 60 F-15 aircraft. The Saudi Air Force already has 114 F-5 bombers.

AR-RIYADH NOTES KINGDOM'S SUPPORT FOR FATAH

LD161107 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Dec--The newspaper AR-RIYADH today comments on the story of the Palestinian resistance within the PLO. It writes that the Fatah movement has insisted on preserving the PLO's independent action and international position in spite of the heavy wounds it suffered over the years. Hence the new strategy of the organization. With the crystallization of this strategy, the PLO embarked on a two-pronged policy: political action and confrontation with the Zionist enemy by all available means.

Speaking of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's position toward the Fatah movement, the paper writes that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom could undisputedly be considered the only Arab country which stood behind bolstering the steps of the organization, that is, of the Fatah movement and no other organization.

The paper adds that the kingdom has patronized the Palestinian question as a sole and principal Arab one and it embraced it with all sincerity: Hence, the mutual respect between the two sides and the mutual understanding of each other's position.

In conclusion, the paper affirms the kingdom's support with all its material and political force for the first cause of the Arabs.

YAMANI ASKS WEST TO KEEP DOWN OIL DEMANDS

LD142200 London BBC Television Network in English 2100 GMT 14 Dec 79 LD

[Text] From one of the world's leading oil producers tonight an urgent appeal to consumers in the West: You keep demand down and we'll try to keep prices down. The word came from Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Shaykah Yamani who announced yesterday an increase in his own country's charges that could not help add 10 pence to a gallon of petrol here at home. Now he says he will go to Venezuela on Monday and ask all exporting nations of OPEC to settle for his new basic price per barrel.

[Begin Yamani recording] So we, together with some producers in the area, managed to agree on this new level of prices so that when we go to OPEC we can tell our partners over there that this is our price. If you want to join us we will be very happy, if not we are not prepared to go over and above it. Hopefully, by your cooperation as consumers to reduce the rate of consumption, next year we will achieve a one-tier price system if we cannot achieve it at this conference in Caracas. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia will be keeping up its high production level of 9.5 million barrels a day well into the new year. It went up last summer to meet worldwide shortages in the West, but the shortages continue so much so that some of the oil available got sold for up to twice as much as the official OPEC price. It is traded on what is called the Rotterdam spot market.

COMMENTARY NOTES CRITICISM OF OPEC DECISIONS

LD161436 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Commentary by Hashin Abdu Hasim on "Event and Comment" program]

[Text] The meeting of the OPEC oil ministers in Caracas affirms an important fact: The OPEC member states sense all the conditions affecting the international community and its needs and try to conciliate between their natural rights and these conditions in such a manner as to serve the world and rectify its course constantly toward better conditions.

Yet, despite all the care shown by the OPEC member states, no sooner do they prepare the ground for any meeting of their ministers than prejudiced campaigns begin to be waged against OPEC and its member states and peoples. Coupled with these campaigns are acts of distortion and incitement against the area countries and the exertion of pressures on their investments and interests from all quarters.

This happens at a time when hardly any positive steps are taken by the other parties to match those of the OPEC member states and to agree with them on specific points which would realize the required coordination and prevent further conflicts and the negative consequences of the war of prices of the various commodities at the expense of the weak peoples of the developing countries.

The question that presents itself once more is: Can the OPEC member states adopt resolutions with no consideration to the persistent world economic conditions? We can ask: How far can it be said that all the OPEC resolutions are the natural result of the current economic conditions?

We post these questions while we are convinced that those who are asking the OPEC member states to increase the volume of their production and freeze their prices have not provided one single proof that they have put an end to the escalating prices of their industrial goods and materials which exhaust the coffers of the world countries and people. Nor have they provided any proof that their plans and measures to rationalize energy consumption and find new alternative energy sources have succeeded. They have also not provided any proof that manipulation of the prices of commodities and the influencing of currency markets and the support of the exploitive companies and black markets have actually stopped.

As we understand it and as all the world peoples seeking stability and coexistence and equal opportunities for all world countries understand it, the problem was not created by OPEC, nor did it create the reasons for its prolongation. The problem was created by collusion and unreasonable ambitions to develop the industrialized societies and to disregard the needs of the developing societies for a reasonable level of living.

Why do the industrialized countries ignore this fact? Why do they ignore the rights of the future generations in such a total manner?

The logic which governs the policies of OPEC in the present conditions is that these generations must live and that the OPEC member states should take the necessary resolutions which would make it possible for their wealth to extend into these generations and that the world society must bless this just course, must stand by the OPEC resolutions and not against them, must understand the truth about the concepts which govern these resolutions and must cooperate with OPEC to achieve a reasonable level of prosperity and reduce the inflated international economic problems.

UAE

OIL SUPPLIES TO THREE JAPANESE COMPANIES TO BE INCREASED

JN161149 Doha QNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Dec--The newspaper AL-FAJR, published in Abu Dhabi today, reports that it has been decided that the emirate of Abu Dhabi will triple its present oil supplies to three Japanese companies as of next month.

The paper adds that each of these three companies--Daikyo Oil Company, Limited; Maruzen Oil Company, Limited; and Nippon Oil Company, Limited--will receive 60,000 barrels a day.

The paper says that the Japanese Mitsubishi Oil Company, Limited, has been assured that its oil supplies will be increased from 30,000 to 60,000 barrels a day next year.

GDR ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES 15 DEC

JN151902 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec--A GDR economic delegation led by the deputy minister of foreign trade arrived here this evening on a 4-day visit to the UAE.

The senior GDR official and his delegation will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Economy and Trade and with the Union of Commerce and Industry chambers in the UAE on the possibility of bilateral cooperation.

YAR

PALESTINIAN MILITARY DELEGATION RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER

JN161430 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] This morning Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Makki received the Palestinian military delegation led by Col Mahmud Ahmad Da'as, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and of the Palestinian Higher Military Council, which is currently visiting the country. Discussion during this meeting dealt with the fraternal relations between the YAR and the PLO, as well as with the current Arab situation. The meeting was attended by brother Husayn ad-Daf'i, Consultative Council member and adviser to the president of the republic on unity affairs, and by the head of the PLO office in San'a'.

Meeting With Chief of Staff

JN161431 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Chief of Staff Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati received the Palestinian military delegation led by Col Mahmud Ahmad Da'as, member of the Palestinian Higher Military Council, today. The meeting was attended by brother Husayn ad-Daf'i, Consultative Council member and adviser to the president of the republic on unity affairs; and by the brother deputy chiefs of staff for military, financial and training affairs.

Meeting With Vice President

JN151321 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Brother Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, YAR vice president and People's Constituent Council speaker, received in his office this morning the Palestinian delegation led by Col Muhammad Ahmad Da'as, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and the Palestinain Higher Military Council, who conveyed to the brother vice president and the People's Constituent Council speaker a written message for brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president and commander in chief of the armed forces, from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman.

The brother vice president affirmed during the meeting the support of the YAR president, government and people for the Palestinian people in their struggle march to liberate their usurped territory. The head of the delegation expressed his thanks for the warm welcome he has received during his visit to the YAR. He praised the YAR's support for the Palestinian revolution.

The meeting was attended by Lt Col as-Sayyid ad-Dafi', member of the Consultative Council and the brother president's adviser for unity affairs, and the brother director of the PLO office in San'a'.

KHALIL SAYS U.S. ARMS FOR EGYPT NOT MEANT AGAINST ISRAEL

NC141915 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has expressed surprise at the concern voiced by Israeli circles regarding plans for supplying Egypt with U.S.-made arms. In an interview with the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent in Cairo, Dr Khalil said that these arms are not meant against Israel. He pointed out that the purpose of the arms is to insure Egypt's security. He added that the era of hostility is over and that the era of peace has begun and will be confirmed by the normalization of relations.

OCTOBER: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH USSR TO BE NORMALIZED

NC150804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 December--In its Sunday edition, OCTOBER magazine says that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will ask Egypt's new ambassador to Moscow, Samih Anwar, to normalize diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

The magazine adds that a senior responsible source has stated this would be the first stage, and that "we will then see how bilateral relations develop after having passed through a stage of complete stagnation and semi-estrangement on all levels."

DEPUTY LEADER OF SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY RESIGNS

NC142240 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 14 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 December--Mahmud Abu Wafiyah, the deputy leader of the opposition Socialist Labor Party [SLP], has resigned from the party.

Tomorrow's editions of AL-AHRAM and AKHBAR AL-YAWM publish the text of the resignation letter Abu Wafiya sent to SLP leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri. In the letter Abu Wafiyah says he is resigning because matters in the party had gone contrary to his expectations. He said that he will perform his duty toward the homeland independent of all parties.

EGYPT SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL COURT DECISION ON HOSTAGES

NC161355 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 December--Commenting on the International Court of Justice's decision calling for the release of the U.S. hostages held in Iran, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that Egypt supports all the international decisions in this connection, including the decision adopted by the International Court of Justice. This decision, he added, is in line with international law and with Egypt's policy, which condemns any violation of diplomatic tradition and international law.

GHALI ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

LD141651 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Dec 79 p 6 LD

[Interview granted by Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali to Khayriyah Khayri in Cairo--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What is the concept of normalization of relations with Israel?

Answer: The term normalization of relations with Israel means the establishment of ordinary or normal relations with it as with any other country in accordance with Egyptian sovereignty. It means the exchange of diplomatic reprsentatiion, opening the door to tourism, concluding trade agreements and all that normal political and economic relations may involve. Normalization between Egypt and Israel is, in our opinion, a step toward a comprehensive and just peace and must contribute to achieving such a peace.

Question: What, exactly, is the scope of normalization?

Answer: It is up to Egypt to determine the scope of its relations with Israel. It can, for example, place controls on such relations. Just as the public law defines the volume and type of foreign investments and activities in Egypt, the same applies to the extent of relations which are gradually to be established between Egypt and Israel.

Relations between Egypt and Israel will be organized in accordance with a number of bilaterial technical agreements which we agreed to conclude under the 16 March Washington treaty. These agreements will be negotiated 6 months after the beginning of normalization, that is, about next July.

Question: How is the Foreign Ministry preparing for the normalization of relations?

Answer: We have set up a committee called the Committee for the Normalization of Relations between Egypt and Israel, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Taha al-Majdub, who had previous contacts with the Israeli military side. The committee includes representatives from the various ministries concerned.

Question: Has Egyptian public opinion been prepared to accept the normalization of relations?

Answer: With regard to preparing Egyptian public opinion to accept the normalization of relations, I would say that the Egyptian public opinion is mature and needs no preparation. It is reassured, unafraid, self-confident and is not apprehensive about dealing with any country on a sound basis, whether the Soviet Union, the United States or Israel. Egypt established relations with Britain before British occupation ended and it benefited from those relations in its struggle for British withdrawal. Egypt also resumed relations with France after the 1956 tripartite aggression in order to achieve peace on a sound basis. Egyptian public opinion is prepared to overcome the sensitivities we have inherited from 30 years of confrontation and four wars. Israel established relations with Germany, which it accused of annihilating 6 million Jews. This is an example of relations among countries.

Egypt has received a number of Israeli tourists, who visited its landmarks and were welcomed by the people wherever they went. Moshe Dayan, Sharon and Weizman told me that when they visited some parts of Cairo and walked through its streets and markets, people welcomed them. They praised the nobility of the Egyptian people.

Question: The Arab countries are apprehensive about the normalization of relations; what is our means of overcoming such apprehension?

Answer: If some Arab countries are apprehensive about the normalization of relations with Israel because they believe that this will lead to special relations between the two countries, and if some biased countries talk about the establishment of a Cairo-Tel Aviv axis, it is up to Egyptian diplomacy and the Egyptian media to reassure Arab public opinion that such assumptions are untrue and that normal relations with Israel cannot affect Egypt's adherence to Arab solidarity. In spite of the political differences between Egypt and some of the Arab countries, this solidarity exists; it is too deep to be affected by horse trading and altercation. The Arabs are linked by unity of common thought that represents a market of minds unparalleled even in the Common Market. Any Egyptian doctor, engineer or expert can find work in any Arab country. Despite the break in diplomatic relations, human relations between Egypt and these countries are good. There are thousands of Palestinian and Arab students in Egyptian institutes, thousands of Arab tourists come to Egypt, and private Arab capital contributes to private sector projects.

Question: What about Israel's fears?

Answer: Israel has its own fears as well, which are expressed by the Israeli press from time to time. It imagines that Egypt might change its mind about the normalization of relations, particularly after taking over the 225-kilometer Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line on 26 January. It is the duty of the media to help Arab public opinion overcome its fear and to reassure it that Egypt cares about Arab solidarity, for the liberation of all the occupied territories and for the restoration of Jerusalem, just as Sinai was restored. Just as there were difficulties in restoring Sinai and Egypt was able to overcome those difficulties, so it will seek to overcome the difficulties in restoring the rest of the Arab territories and safeguarding the Palestinian people's rights.

Question: What comes after normalization?

Answer: Facing up to peace requires no less vigilance, effort and courage than facing up to war. Peace requires a studied strategy and level-headed view of things, because we are at the beginning of the road. What we want is comprehensive peace and the liberation of all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, as well as the safeguarding of the Palestinian people's rights.

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

NC161626 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 December--Hamid as-Sayih, minister of economy, foreign trade and economic cooperation, has announced that, according to the latest reports of the World Bank for Development and Reconstruction, this year Egypt achieved an average economic growth of 8.6 percent, as compared with 8.2 percent last year. In his statement to the People's Assembly today on the government's economic and monetary policy, the minister said that the success of the open-door policy and the fact that the world is convinced of the seriousness and effectiveness of the peace policy led by President Anwar as-Sadat have helped promote all the local and foreign resources necessary for investment. The grants and loans received by Egypt from the friendly states and international bodies in 1979 exceeded $ 2 billion. He said that the total value of the loans and grants contracted since January stood at $2,064,800,000, of which $647.7 million--31.4 percent--were grants. Foremost among the states that have offered loans and facilities to Egypt, he said, are the United States, West Germany, France, and Japan and also the European Investment Bank and the African Development Fund.

He said that the total value of the credit facilities provided by the commercial banks to the local economic sectors reached $2,869,700,000.

The economy minister pointed out that the Egyptian central bank's reports for the current year show a big increase of 1,268,000,000 pounds in deposits over the previous year. In the first 9 months of the current year the deposits in the commercial bank rose to 4,697,000,000 pounds as compared with 3,429,000,000 pounds in the same period of last year.

Referring to the trade balance, Dr as-Sayih said that the government has provided the necessary funds to cover the import of necessary consumer, intermediary and investment goods. The payments for imports in the first 9 months of the current year amounted to 3,352,000,000 pounds as compared with 2,518,000,000 pounds for the same period last year--an increase of 834 million pounds or 33.1 percent.

He said that the exports for the same period rose to 1,173,000,000 pounds--an increase of 260 million pounds over the same period last year.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION LEAVES CAIRO FOR PARIS

NC16138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 December--The Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the international consultative cortium for bolstering the Egyptian economy, which will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, left Cairo for Paris today.

The delegation, which is led by Economy, Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister Dr Hamid as-Sayih, includes Finance Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Planning Minister Dr 'Abd Ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, Health Minister Dr Mamduh Jabr, Minister of Construction and New Societies Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi and Minister of State for Economic Cooperation Jamal an-Nazir.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES

NC161135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 December--Sylvestre Bangui, the second vice prime minister and foreign minister of the Central African Republic, arrived in Cairo this morning for a 3-day visit to Egypt. He was welcomed at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES SUDANESE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

NC161937 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received Sudanese Communications Minister Dr Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim Badri. [as received]

COMORAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO ON 3-DAY VISIT

NC170707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 December--Comoran Prime Minister Salim Ben Ali arrived in Cairo tonight on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

The Comoran prime minister said that during his stay in Egypt he will hold talks on strengthening and developing relations between the two countries. He added that he will later leave for Saudi Arabia.

ELIYAHU BEN-ELISAR ARRIVES TO PREPARE FOR BEGIN VISIT

NC170945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0931 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 December-Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the director general of the office of Israeli Prime Minister Menhem Begin, arrived in Cairo this morning to prepare for Begin's visit to Cairo on 7 January. Ben-Elisar was welcomed at the airport by presidential office chief Hasan Kamil.

INA COMMENTATOR REFUTES IRANIAN ATTACK ALLEGATIONS

JN151251 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Text] The INA political commentator writes: The report which was broadcast over Tehran Radio and Television last night and distributed by news agencies and some world radios that Iraqi forces had launched an attack with heavy weapons on southwestern Iranian areas and had infilatrated into Iranian territory is a figment of the imagination, baseless and fabricated in part and parcel.

The commentator adds: The Iranian regime is at a loss as a result of its policies and is involved with complications and problems with the Iranian peoples. The regime has failed to heal its wounds on the domestic and foreign levels as it thought it could do. It cannot cope with the Iranian peoples' struggle for their national rights and freedom; therefore, this regime is intentionally trying to divert the attention of these people from their basic issues by fabricating problems.

The commentator says that information reveals that the ruling clique in Iran meant to use the issue of the U.S. hostages and attacks on the other embassies in Tehran to peddle its constitution to entrench a new dictatorship that would outweigh the dictatorship of the former shah's regime.

The commentator says that the Iranian rulers have been greatly disappointed because all the Persian progressive and patriotic forces, the prominent men of religion--known for their active stand in overthrowing the shah's regime--and other Iranian progressive people and the non-Persian minorities oppose this constitution. This has prompted the Iranian rulers to fabricate new theatrical acts to divert the Iranians from their issues and from the oppression, anarchy, lack of all values of justice and law and the supremacy of the law of jungle.

The commentator adds that the theatrical acts of the ruling clique in Iran are aimed at diverting Iranian public opinion with a fabricated story about an alleged Iraqi attack in an attempt to inflame the illegitimate hatred and to cover the treacherous attacks on the Iraqi institutions in Iran, the latest of which was the arrest of Iraqi teachers in Iran.

The commentator says that the allegations of the ruling clique in Iran against Iraq are merely fabricated stories which only exist in their minds.

KURDS URGED TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE AGAINST KHOMEYNI

JN152022 Baghdad Domestic Service in Kurdish (Surani) 1700 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary: "Khomeyni and His Suspect Information Media"]

[Text] Brother Kurds in Iranian Kordestan, we want to unmask Khomeyni and expose his information media and his impermissible deeds. Khomeyni claims that he worships Islam and will not deviate from Islam. Brother rebellious Kurds in Iranian Kordestan: You know the Islamic constitution. Does Islam condemn anyone who demands independent life? No. [words indistinct] the Iranian nation's rights in a democratic Iran. Islam does not discriminate among nations. Islam does not discriminate between white and black or between Arab and non-Arab, except in piety.

Why did this Khomeyni stray from the road of Islam? Why did he stray from the road of humanity? Does Islam preach fraticide and killing? Does Islam preach that one should wear the shroud of death [reference to mujahidin, who wear white shrouds when they go to battle] and kill, because killing will win him paradise? Is this Khomeyni's constitution? Is the killing of infants, the bringing down of houses upon the heads of the elderly and the stoning of innocents Khomeyni's constitution? Is all this found in the Islamic constitution or in the constitution of Khomeyni, who thinks he is the upholder of Islam?

O Kurdish people: Do not believe in anyone, except in the path of armed struggle. Bare your chests to the enemy's fire because this course is blessed and holy. Do not believe in the information media of Khomeyni and his clique.

O Kurdish people: Khomeyni has lost his reason. Every day he claims something new, so that the people will believe in him. The issue of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran profides justification for a U.S. onslaught aimed at occupying the area and inflicting harm on the struggling nations in the region. O Khomeyni, if you know that those in the U.S. Embassy are spies and you want to try them, what are you waiting for? Why do you cling to the pretext of the shah's extradition?

Furthermore, this attack on the embassy is illegal and violates international norms. However, Khomeyni is distant from the Iranian leadership and from humanity. Khomeyni knows nothing about international norms. He only knows how to shed the blood of innocent Iranian martyrs.

Khomeyni accuses Iraq in order to put his hand on Iraqi soil. Ungrateful Khomeyni: Have you forgotten Iraq and its great revolution? Didn't your eminence live respected in Iraq for many years, because you were considered a struggler against the shah? Have you forgotten all this? The Iranian peoples know Iraq and its great revolution well. They do not ask for what you are doing. Are you not the same Khomeyni who rendered brothers enemies and killers of each other? What more do you want?

Khomeyni's information apparatus knows nothing except to send ignorant people to help the PLO in Syria and Lebanon under the name of jihad. O Khomeyni, these are new plots to give the Zionist enemy further justification for attacking southern Lebanon.

O Khomeyni, if you really love the Arabs, why don't you end your occupation of the three Arab islands? Why are you scheming to occupy Bahrain? The shrouds of the mujahidin are to incite the Zionist enemy against Lebanon and Syria.

In conclusion, we call on all the Iranian peoples, particularly the Kurdish people, not to trust Khomeyni's propaganda. All that Khomeyni is doing is restoring U.S. hegemony, not only in Iran but in the entire area. O rebellious Kurdish peoples: You will not abandon your struggle for your rights and for a democratic Iran until the last drop of blood has left your veins.

BULGARIAN VICE PREMIER LUKANOV MEETS RCC VICE CHAIRMAN

JN150959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 December--Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim met here today with Andrey Lukanov, Bulgarian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, which was attended by Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad, both sides discussed relations between the two countries following Iraq's withdrawal of its ambassador from Sofia and the freezing of economic relations with Bulgaria.

Leaves for Home

JN151351 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 December--Andrey Lukanov, Bulgarian deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, left Baghdad for home today following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

He was seen off at Baghdad International Airport by Sa'dun Ghaydan, RCC member and deputy prime minister.

SOVIET AIR FORCE CHIEF LEAVES BAGHDAD 15 DEC

JN151350 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 December--Marshal Pavel Stepanovich Kutakhov, Soviet Air Force commander, left Baghdad for home today following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Prior to his departure, Marshal Kutakhov stated that his visit will contribute to promoting the friendly and cooperative relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

TRADE MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO CUBA

JN161326 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 December--Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi RCC member and minister of trade, returned here last night after heading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Iraqi-Cuban joint committee for trade, economic and technical cooperation which concluded in Havana on Thursday.

Hasan 'Ali said that during the visit the joint minutes for the abovementioned committee were signed. The minutes include an increase in the volume of trade, the achievement of balanced trade between the two countries, the exchange of delegations and the strengthening of cooperation between Iraqi and Cuban trade establishments.

The minutes also include the organization of Iraqi sugar imports for the coming year, the holding of specialized exhibitions in the two countries and the strengthening of cooperation in the fields of health services, construction, transportation and agriculture.

Hasan 'Ali said the two sides agreed to hold the forthcoming meeting of the joint committee in Baghdad at the end of 1980 and to develop cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

AD-DUSTUR ON U.S. HOSTAGES, PALESTINIANS

JN150834 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the issue of the U.S. Embassy hostages and U.S. resort to the UN Security Council to release these 49 persons, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: The debate on the issue of the hostages being held in Tehran undoubtedly concerns both the U.S. and Iranian sides. Everyone hopes that the issue will not remain unresolved but end in a solution which satisfies all parties concerned.

Despite all this, we are very surprised at the U.S. resort to the UN Security Council and its demand for the implementation of Article Seven of the UN Charter, which calls for the imposition of sanctions against any country whose behavior threatens world peace and security. The problem as we and the world know is the problem of a few hostages, fewer than 50 individuals, being held in Tehran for reasons which the United States knows better than any other country. It is a problem between Washington and Tehran only, unless U.S. measures, through the movement of its fleets and attempts to convince the world to impose a maritime and economic siege on Iran, result in threatening world peace and security.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Because it is the United States which demands the option of implementing Article 7 of the UN Charter against Iran, we ask: What right does the United States have to use this means to release 49 hostages while the Arabs and Palestinians have no right to work to help a half million Palestinian hostages held in their land since 1948 and another million Palestinian hostages held since 1967 along with their land? If Israel, which 140 states recognize as threatening world peace and security by its actions, does not deserve the punishment that Washington is trying to impose on Iran, how then can we interpret the U.S. stand on human rights? Are the rights of 49 U.S. citizens being held in Tehran more important than the rights of more than 3 million Palestinians and more important than the occupied Palestinian homeland?

AL-AKHBAR Commentary

JN190943 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the Iranian-U.S. crisis, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR discusses the ruling of the International Court of Justice and the U.S. secretary of defense's decision to form a U.S. intervention force. The paper says: The International Court's ruling comes at a time when there are many signs of optimism concerning the solution of the crisis. The U.S. secretary of defense, however, did not forget to announce the intention of the United States to form a U.S. intervention force capable of carrying out missions outside the United States in accordance with its interests.

The International Court in The Hague is, after all, a court capable of pronouncing sentences that have no executory character. Because it is an international court, it needs the executive authority to implement its decisions. Perhaps this is the motive behind the U.S. defense secretary's announcement of his country's intention to form the intervention force, to which he hinted in the past. At that time, the U.S. Department of State and the official White House spokesman announced that such an intention was not true.

AL-AKHBAR concludes: Those who possess power make sure that its impact is always felt or that the parties with whom they hold a dialog realize that there is another option in case the dialog fails. Israel has always confronted us with this method. Despite the fact that Israel does not possess part of the U.S. power--without U.S. power Israel would not have been able to practice its power policy--it always states that the Arabs will regret it if they do not accept this or that, or that they will stay where they are. It seems as if power has become Israel's monopoly and that power is a permanent factor not subject to historical change.

KENNEDY CRITICIZED FOR POSITION ON IRAN, ISRAEL

JN150951 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Dec 79 p 20 JN

[Column by Raja al-'Isa: "Edward Kennedy's Democracy"]

[Text] If a democratic regime is an advanced regime, then Edward Kennedy has harmed it by misusing the opportunities it provides him with. The democratic system in the United States has enabled this man to become a candidate for the highest political post and has provided him with a rostrum to address the sons of his country and the rest of the world. So far, the man has used this rostrum to harm democracy, his country and himself. The first strange statement Edward Kennedy made was one attacking the former shah and describing him and his father as highwaymen, thieves and so forth.

We are not here to defend the shah, but as all those who closely followed events during recent years, we have been witnessing this cheap exploitation of the Iranian situation. We recall how this Kennedy used to eat the leftovers at the shah's banquets and how he tried to get closer to the shah and his family for a long time. We are also aware of the history of the Kennedy family, whose wealth was amassed from smuggling liquor during the Prohibition period, of how Joseph Kennedy, the founder of this family, became a millionarie and shunned the world of smuggling for that of movies, banks and speculation; of how these millions made him a prominent figure, an ambassador of his country and a father of a president, two presidential candidates and senators. As for the Kennedy sons, their political prestige reached its climax with the story of Edward Kennedy and his secretary--the secretary he left to drown after he succeeded in getting out of the car he drove into a creek after they spent a festive evening together.

Kennedy coupled his statement about the former shah with another saying that the United States should increase its aid to Israel by $350 million to compensate it for the results of inflation and the drop in the value of the dollar. After all this and after Kennedy has rubbed all the sublime values of democracy in the mud to win the U.S. Presidency, would it be too much if we reject this democracy? This U.S. democracy which enables candidates to be belligerent, lies to be disseminated by Zionist information media during elections and which results in capitulation to Zionist objectives when exercising power, this democracy is really the world's calamity.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NC141544 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Dec 79 NC

[Text] After meeting with the U.S. and French ambassadors today, Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Fu'ad Butrus stated that there is a disparity of views between Lebanon and the United States and France over the forthcoming UN Security Council resolution on Lebanon. The resolution is due to be issued on Tuesday.

Minister Butrus said that when it comes to renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, Lebanon will strive for a resolution that will be very firm on the matter of Israel and Lebanon's sovereignty.

Minister Butrus met with the U.S. and French ambassadors after meeting with the president earlier. During his meeting with the president, the foreign minister discussed topics related to the UN Security Council.

After his meeting with the foreign minister, U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean replied to newsmen's questions and revealed certain details about supplies of arms and bombers to the Lebanese Army. The ambassador said he believes that 155 mm guns will be handed over to the army in the near future.

FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

NC161730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Fijian Prime Minister Kamisese Mara arrived in Beirut at 1545 on an official visit to Lebanon during which he will meet with a number of officials and inspect the Fijian contingent in Lebanon.

The prime minister of Fiji was received at the airport by the director general of protocol and public relations, 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykhah, on behalf of Prime Minister al-Huss; the director of the Foreign Ministry's international organizations, Yahyah Mahmasani; Staff Brigadier General Mazbudi on behalf of the army command; the chief of the Lebanese-Israeli armistice commission, Colonel (Aspinasi); the chief of the Fijian contingent serving within UNIFIL, and the director of the UNIFIL Information Office in Lebanon, Samir Sanbar.

The prime minister of Fiji made a statement at Beirut airport in which he said: The aim of my visit to Lebanon is to meet with high-ranking Lebanese officials. These meetings come within the framework of Lebanon's international contacts. I would also like to acquaint myself with the situation in Lebanon. I will also inspect the Fijian troops which are serving the cause of peace in Lebanon.

AFP REPORTS ARRIVAL OF IRANIAN VOLUNTEER LEADER

NC141250 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 14 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, Dec 14 (AFP)--A leader of the group of Iranian volunteers wanting to go to Lebanon to fight alongside Palestinian guerrillas arrived here today to explain the volunteers' motives.

The volunteers are currently blocked at Tehran airport because Lebanon has refused to allow them to land.

Volunteer Ahmad Sadeq refused to say how he had entered Lebanon, but said he expected the rest of the volunteers to arrive here in the next few days. They might come via Damascus, Mr Sadeq said. He added that Syria would give the group collective visas.

Mr. Sadeq claimed the number of volunteers could reach 35,000. He added that other contingencs would go to Jordan, the Golan Heights in Syria, and Egypt "to reactivate all the Arab fronts against Israel." He warned that the Iranian Army would not stand idle if Israel attacked southern Lebanon.

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC150709 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Iranian sources in Beirut said this morning that the question of the dispatch of Iranian volunteers to Lebanon has been set aside following contacts between Ayatollah Khomeyni and Shaykh Mohammad Montazeri. The sources added that Ahmed Sadeq, who spoke about the Iranian volunteers at a press conference yesterday, is himself a volunteer who has no connection with the orders issued by Shaykh Mohammad Montazeri and no status other than that of an ordinary volunteer.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS ISRAELI SHELLING OF SOUTH 16 DEC

NC162308 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The central sector in the south was subjected to artillery shelling by Israel and the border militias tonight. The shelling was directed at the Al-Qa'qiyah area near An-Nabatiyah. Reports have made no mention of any casualties.

VOL: ADF FORCES CLASH WITH PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT

NC170842 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] At about 0900 today clashes broke out between the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] and some Palestinian organizations. The clashes started near the airport circle and later extended to Shatila camp in the western area of Beirut. RPG's, antiarmor and DSHK guns were used in the clashes. The reasons for the clashes are not known.

ADF REPORTS THREE SYRIAN ENGINEERS MISSING

NC151220 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[15 December statement by fifth branch of Arab Deterrent Forces Command]

[Text] On 3 December, three Syrian civilian engineers working on the afforestation project in the Qasyun mountains in Damascus district entered Lebanon via Al-Masna'. The engineers, who were travelling in a Mercedes 230, wanted to buy raw material for the project. Upon their arrival in Beirut on the same date, they lost their way and entered eastern Beirut. Nothing has been heard from them since.

ADF REPORTS THREE ADF SOLDIERS MISSING SINCE 7 DEC

NC151224 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[15 December statement by fifth branch of Arab Deterrent Forces]

[Text] On 7 December an Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] military jeep, No 87503, mistakenly entered the Al-Ashrafiyah area via Jisr Fu'ad Shihab. Second Lt Ghazi Kunaysawi and soldiers Ayamamma'az and Rashid Malla were travelling in the jeep. Militia gunmen stopped the jeep and detained the passengers, whose fate remains unknown to this hour despite various attempts and contacts made by the ADF Command and by various levels of the government to free them as well as the Syrian engineers.

TISHRIN ON SHAH'S DEPARTURE FOR PANAMA

JN170738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Resolving the Issue by Scoring Points," TISHRIN discusses the U.S. plan to effect the shah's departure so as to bypass the Iranian demands. TISHRIN writes: At first glance it appears that the shah's transfer is a U.S. retreat symbolizing the stifling of the intention to return the shah to the United States and then as an emperor to Iran, similar to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's successful operation on 19 August 1953 in returning the very same shah to the throne.

Today the situation is different. The possibilities of a move by another General Zahedi who would stage a coup against the revolution have been thwarted by various means in Iran in 1979. First impressions are not always a reflection of the true situation. The general development of the Iranian-U.S. crisis is governed by minor factors and marginal details which may contribute toward one side winning the initiative from the other and may double the chances of one of the two sides winning the conflict on points in a manner that decisively ends the crisis without a knockout.

TISHRIN says that Iran has called for the return of the shah and his wealth so that the butcher dictator can be put on trial. Otherwise, it said that it will try the embassy hostages, thus putting to the test the U.S. claim that the shah was given refuge because of his illness. The shah is now in Panama and he has not gone there to receive medical treatment. However, the exposition of the U.S. claim concerning the shah's illness could be a tactic to throw the ball into Iran's court. Iran is now morally obliged to carry out its threat to try the embassy staff.

Thus, Iran is faced with a dilemma: If it should release the embassy hostages, whose guilt in conniving with the shah to carry out acts of destruction in Iran is accepted by the world, it would lose the card with which it subdued Washington's will and the shah. However, if it should put them on trial, then world public opinion may be tipped in the United States' favor in view of the fact that the core of the conflict is absent. Thus, it will be difficult for Iran to ask the United States to hand over a person who is not in its territory, and all the obstacles in the way of another chapter in the conflict will be removed to make way for a new impudent U.S. provocation by returning the shah to New York.

AL-BA'TH ON U.S. CALL FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

JN161201 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 December--In today's editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms that Washington's call on the United Nations to adopt economic, political and perhaps military sanctions against Iran for violating the UN Charter by holding Washington's diplomats as hostages, is both rude and strange.

AL-BA'TH says: The United Nations has a file of crimes committed by the United States and its allies through violating the UN Charter and resolutions and denying peoples their most simple rights, not to mention human rights.

The paper adds: A look through the file of U.S. crimes against the UN Charter clearly reveals U.S. fingerprints in all world disasters, starting from the issue of the Indians to the Middle East issue, racial discrimination in America, the practices of its dictators in Chile and El Salvador and other crimes. It is also responsible for the establishment of agent regimes in Third World countries to create problems in them, and it is determined to impose its hegemony on the world economically, politically and militarily.

AL-BA'TH adds: The issue of the hostages is but an outcome of these crimes and this policy. What Iran is demanding of the United States is the extradition of the criminal shah and the return of the money stolen from the Iranian people. It also wants the United States to stop intervening in its affairs and to stop using the diplomatic identity as a means to allow CIA agents to create conspiracies and riots in Iran.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The U.S. administration cannot hide its crimes from the world and make the world see only its embassy hostages in Tehran.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS INCIDENTS IN SYRIAN CITIES

NC151535 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that violent clashes flared up in Syria today and included Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia and other cities in northern Syria.

The details and outcome of these incidents are still unknown due to secrecy imposed by the Syrian authorities.

Intelligence Chief Killed

NC161314 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The security situation in Aleppo Province of Syria continues to deteriorate. Voice of Lebanon correspondents reported today that armed Muslim Brotherhood members killed the chief of general intelligence, Sa'd ad-Din Lababibi, during yesterday's clashes. Agronomist Muhammad al-Musawi and four Turkish students were killed at Baghdad [railway] station in Aleppo city.

Tension is especially evident in the areas of Bab an-Nayrab, Sayf ad-Dawlah, Al-Kannasah and Dar Halab. It has been reiterated that many persons have been killed and wounded as a result of the clashes which have been taking place for the last 2 days. The sound of shots continued to be heard until this morning.

BA'TH PARTY CONFERENCE TO BEGIN 18 DEC

JN141228 Doha QNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 14 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 14 December--The meetings of the seventh conference of the Syrian Ba'th Party will begin here Tuesday to study the current situation on the domestic and Arab levels and to select a new party leadership which will run the government in Syria for the next 4 years.

The party elections which began last Saturday and covered Ba'th party branches in all Syrian cities ended yesterday and resulted in the election of 800 members, who will represent all branches at the party conference.

LIBYA

LIBYA CLOSES PLO BENGHAZI OFFICE, EXPELS OFFICIALS

NC162250 Paris AFP in English 2241 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, Dec 16 (AFP)--Escalating its fight with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Libya today closed the PLO office in Benghazi and ordered the expulsion of three top PLO leaders, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

The agency also reported that Libyan authorities have surrounded a PLO office at Tripoli and sent armed men into the building.

It cited reliable Palestinian sources as saying that the PLO has asked certain Arab nations to mediate the conflict with Libya and study Libya's "suspected aggression" against the Palestinian people.

Ordered expelled were Abu Tariq, Abu Sayir and Ibrahim Tubawi, assistant to the PLO chief in Libya who was also recently expelled.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE, CONDEMN FATAH LEADERSHIP

LD161511 Tripoli JANA in English 1403 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Bani Walid, Dec 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The town of Bani Walid was yesterday the venue of a massive student demonstration in which pupils from all the region's schools and institutes participated.

Students condemned "Fatah's" leadership for its ungrateful attitude and the insolent allegations waged against the Great 1 September Revolution, its historic leadership and the Libyan Arab people.

The demonstration which started from the 7th of April school, traversed the town's streets chanting slogans in support of the Great 1 September Revolution which aids all self-respecting revolutionaries, and called for support of all fighters who believe that armed struggle is the only road to liberation.

The demonstrators affirmed the Libyan Arab people's belief in the righteous cause of Palestine and total support for all those who believe in armed struggle as the only means to achieve liberation, and who reject a life of luxury.

The demonstrators sent a cable to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi affirming their absolute commitment in the Great 1 September's thoughts and dicta. They also affirmed their full support for the speech of the leader delivered on the day of solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people.

The assistant secretary of the basic people's congress of Bani Walid said that the masses of the congress will resume their meetings today in an extraordinary session to discuss the memorandum concerning the stand of Fatah's leadership towards the Great 1 September Revolution, its historic leadership and the Libyan people as a whole.

COMMENTARY QUESTIONS FATAH'S 'CAMPAIGN OF LIES'

LD142105 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Palestine revolution's strategic objective is to set up a solid, firm base in an Arab land which would accept becoming a base for continuing the fedayeen action. This strategic objective of the Palestine revolution has been achieved in the land of the Jamahiriyah, which the Great 1 September Revolution turned into a base for the revolution when it destroyed all the shackles which fettered the movements of the Palestinian masses and opened the doors to them, enabling them to reorganize in the manner they wished when it declared that the land of the Jamahiriyah was open for the movement of the fedayeen action toward Palestine--even across Egypt--and when it prompted the Palestinian masses to formulate their own national popular unity and when it mobilized these masses for the escalation of their armed struggle against the Zionist enemey.

What else does the Palestine revolution want? It has always dreamed of securing a base and a center for itself on Arab soil and fought the reactionary forces for this purpose. Now the dream has come true in the Jamahiriyah. Why then is this met with rejection and a feverish compaign of lies and fabrications propagated by the Fatah leadership against the Great 1 September Revolution and its historic leadership?

When the Libyan people employ all their resources toward liberating Palestine and the escalation of the armed struggle, they are only exercising their legitimate right of self-defense and defense of Arabism and the very pan-Arab existence. For the Zionist imperialist threat is not directed against Palestine alone, but against the entire Arab nations.

LIBYA SUPPORTS OIL PRICE HIKE AT OPEC MEETING

LD161126 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] OPEC, 16 Dec--Jamahiriyah Oil Secretary 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk has expressed his hope that OPEC will deduct 50 cents from the price of every barrel to make up a total sum of $5 billion annually on the basis of the current OPEC production, which stands at present at 33 million barrels a day, to assist the developing countries.

Venezuela, which will play host to the 51st OPEC conference Tuesday, supports the question of the growing financial subsidy which is in addition to the $500 million approved during the OPEC conference in Geneva last June.

Venezuela decided Friday not to apply the $6 increase in the price of a barrel of oil, which came into force yesterday, against the Latin American and Caribbean countries whose purchases of Venezuelan oil in 1978 amounted to 156,000 barrels daily, which is half of their crude oil imports.

ALGERIAN FLN DELEGATION VISITING LIBYA

LD161201 Tripoli JANA in English 0807 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Mr Abouallem Dellouci, member of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party arrived in Tripoli yesterday heading a popular delegation representing the different political and locational organizations in Algeria.

In a statement to our correspondent, Mr Dellouci expressed delight for being able to visit the Jamahiriyah. He said his visit aims at drawing detailed projects for bolstering (?new) activities and for establishing strong ties between popular organisations in both countries.

He said specialized committees have been set up to further develop popular relations between the Algerian National Liberation Front Party and the General People's Congress secretariat. The Algerian delegation's visit comes within the context of the unification dialogue between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

POLISARIO DELEGATION ENDS VISIT TO LIBYA

LD132136 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Brother Mohamed Abdul Aziz, POLISARIO secretary general and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli this evening at the end of a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Brother Mohamed Abdul Aziz praised the policy of the Great 1 September Revolution on liberation movements and the oppressed peoples of the world, as well as its confrontation with the Arab nation's enemies and the frustrating of their plans.

SUDAN

CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES KHARTOUM 16 DEC

JN161857 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 16 December--Sylvestre Bangui, second vice prime minister and foreign minister of the Central African Republic, left Khartoum for home this morning.

During his visit, Banqui delivered a written message from Central African President David Dacko to President Numayri. He also attended the opening session of the joint Sudan-Central African Republic ministerial committee meetings, which began here on 13 December.

CABINET DISCUSSES MIDEAST SITUATION, OTHER ISSUES

TA161215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Dec 79 TA

[Text] This morning the Cabinet discussed the Middle East situation. The defense minister and the chief of staff made reports. The Cabinet met as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

The Cabinet also denounced the UN General Assembly's resolution which again condemned Zionism.

The Cabinet secretary announced that the finance minister has replaced Customs and Excise Director Yehezqel Abulafya and appointed State Revenues Director Uri'el Lin as acting director of customs. Following the Cabinet meeting the finance minister told our correspondent that he decided to transfer Abulafya from his position because he had criticized the government.

CONCERN OVER U.S. ARMS DEALS WITH EGYPT, SAUDIS NOTED

TA141013 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Israel is expressing its concern to the U.S. Government about planned arms deals between the Americans on the one hand, and Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the other. The Israeli ambassador in Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, is now holding meetings at the White House with the intention of stating Israeli disapproval of the arms deals. Ambassador 'Evron met this evening with Vice President Walter Mondale and with the President's adviser on national security, Brezezinski. The day before yesterday Mr 'Evron met with Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders, who promised that the United States will not violate the military balance. However, one of the members of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said that, in his opinion, at least in regard to the sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia, there may be a disruption in the balance of power to the detriment of Israel. Elimelekh Ram and Ehud Ya'ari report on this. [begin videotape]

[Ya'ari] Norfolk, Virginia, another minesweeper is transferred to the Saudi Navy: a small item in a basket of military arms deals worth about $12 billion. Most of it has so far been dedicated to building an infrastructure. From now on the emphasis will be on equipment, quality and quantity. The new U.S. list contains Maverick missiles and laser-guided bombs, wonderfully precise destructive tools, the like of which is not possessed by any Arab country. The Saudis will have more of these than the IDF. The explanation in Washington: The Saudis must be strengthened so that they can deter all kinds of oil-seekers, thus preserving the conservative regime for another few years.

[Me'ir Imit] What the Americans are doing here...in my opinion they are not acting systematically, they are acting out of reflex, a reaction to a situation. They want to guarantee their position in the region, and they are handing out toys.

[Dinitz] Although we knew that Saudi Arabia was on the list of U.S. arms purchasers, it is impossible in my opinion, given the delicate state of the political process and negotiations, that Israel should have to read about it this morning.

[Ya'ari] Israel is told not to worry. This equipment will never reach the base at Tabuk on the Gulf of Elat but will be stationed far away, opposite Yemen, Iraq and Iran. In the meantime, there is no infrastructure at Tabuk to support the F-15's, the raisin in the procurement basket.

Meanwhile, the Saudi F-15's are not stationed on our front, but there is no guarantee this situation will last. The small Saudi Army is absorbing equipment without achieving deterrence against its other enemies, but it may make an unpleasant contribution if the eastern front moves against us. The question which always arises in such cases is: How understanding will we be regarding the need to strengthen Saudi Arabia when this may be harmful to us, and what can we do in case we refuse to understand?

[Moshe Arens] It is possible that the United States thinks that Israel does not care, that we do not oppose this...

[Ram] Are you hinting that the Israeli Government is not doing enough on this issue?

[Arens] You know me--I usually do not hint at all. I am telling you directly what I think. Reading the U.S. press today, I would say there is cause for assumption that Israel may not be opposed to this deal. Israel has not yet had its say on the matter and I think we will do so.

['Amit] I do not suggest that we behave like an ostrich and say that nothing will happen, since the United States will act. However, I suggest that we do make ourselves heard in the United States and make demands. It is not too late; for example, there are still 30 days left before the Saudi deal is approved by Congress. It is not too late yet. We should say: We understand your problems; let the two of us make a global assessment of the situation and see how a firm foundation can be established here, based on all elements in the region. In my opinion, what they are doing now is giving things without getting anything in return.

[Dinitz] I would first make all this known on the political level, and only later on the public level, so that our U.S. friends do not grope in the dark and will know precisely Israel's approach to this grave issue.

['Amit] The world around us is burning and we are preoccupied with trifles. [end videotape]

Labor Party Criticism

TA161317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The Labor Party says that it is not surprising that a government which is stuck in the ground at Elon More, as they put it, and which is spending most of its time dealing with abortions, is unable to react in time to reports about huge arms deals between the United States and Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The Labor Party reaction teams's statement says that this is a most serious national blunder which is a result of there being no foreign minister during a time of political storms.

Intelligence Assessment

TA161952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 79 TA

[Text] It is the assessment of Israeli intelligence factors that the anti-American wave in the Muslim Middle East is still at its height and that it may not be ruled out that this wave will expand also to other countries, reports our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir. Senior defense establishment circles believe Israel has to persuade the United States that only a strong and solid Israeli-Egyptian axis is likely to help the Americans to reconsolidate their deteriorating stature in the region.

Hence it is undesirable, according to those circles, that Israel totally reject the U.S. military assistance to Egypt, and one should strive only to cut its volume and delay the rate of supply. Concurrently, Israel will demand an increase in U.S. assistance to the IDF, most probably by half a billion dollars.

IMPLICATIONS OF SHAH'S TRANSFER TO PANAMA VIEWED

TA161736 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Dec 79 TA

[Text] What is behind the U.S. decision to enable the shah to leave Texas on his way to Panama? Our commentator, Prof Shlomo Aharonson, believes that, after it becomes clear to Iran that the prey broke out of the cage, the United States expects a gesture that will bring about the release of the hostages.

[Begin Aharonson recording] Washington acted at the end of last week on two levels: It achieved a number of international condemnations and a ruling of the international court against Iran and, concurrently, it sought and found a more or less secure haven for the shah outside its territory. Thus, the White House rid itself of direct responsibility for the shah, rendering, as it were, invalid the excuse for the arrest of the hostages.

It is quite clear that precisely the departure of the former emperor to Panama is liable to expedite the trial of the hostages, but the timing of the departure for Panama was chosen, it seems, meticulously. In exactly 1 week, the Christian world will celebrate Christmas, an opportunity for the Muslim patriarch in Tehran to make a religious gesture, not to Carter but, perhaps, to the pope or to the American people or to believers the world over, while the shah himself is no longer extraditable as far as the United States is concerned. This is, naturally, also a wager that is liable to end in the revolutionary court in Tehran. Washington will then have to act at the moment that the hostages are brought to trial, but after it generated a more or less propitious international atmosphere and a measure of Western solidarity.

The predictable options are: an economic boycott and naval embargo of Iran, selective or full, during the trial. Afterwards, if the accused are convicted and expelled--and there have already been precedents of Western diplomats who were tried or persecuted [as heard] in the Third World being expelled later--if then, they are convicted and expelled, then the boycott and the naval embargo will be revoked. If the hostages come to harm, the United States will hit Iran proper selectively, starting with naval and air bases and ending with refineries in Abadan. Washington hopes that, with the departure of the shah and in view of the approaching Christmas holidays, such measures will not be necessary. [end recording]

ITIM IDENTIFIES TWO TERRORISTS KILLED IN CYPRUS

TA170652 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2130 GMT 16 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Jerusalem, 16 Dec--The two terrorists killed in Cyprus were inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. East Jerusalem newspapers will publish obituaries today, offering their condolences to the bereaved families which reside in the area. The obituaries will be published on behalf of many Judaea and Samaria personalities.

Terrorist 'Abd al-Aziz, alias Abu Safwat, who was described as the person in charge of terrorist activities throughout Judaea and Samaria, was an inhabitant of the village of Bayt Immar opposite Gush 'Etzyon in the Hebron hills. Members of his family still live there. The second terrorist, Samir Tuqan, is a member of the famous and large Tuqan family living in Nabulus.

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN DENIES SOVIET PILOTS FLYING MISSIONS

LD162250 Kabul in English to Europe 1900 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Interview granted by Afghan Prime Minister Hafizollah Amin to (Station Kohar) of the Indian Daily News Service, and (Etiormo), correspondent of the Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA, on 4 December at the People's House in Kabul--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Indian journalists: How do you explain the list made public containing names of several thousand people who have been killed and prisoned?

Answer: This has been a myth propagated by the enemies of the revolution. We do not publish any list of the people who have been killed after arrest since 16 September 1979. As has been said several times, those whose names have been mentioned perhaps and are not with us at the present time have fled Afghanistan. Then how could one say they have been arrested or killed? [words indistinct] they are not with us, but those still entered on those details in the future shall not be penalized with a closed subject. [sentence as heard] This I have promised to my people. That is why our people are living with confidence and pride and they are concerned with only those [words indistinct] who are really guilty. But this is only a myth that several thousand people have been killed. It is completely groundless. Of course, there are certain people who approach the (?police) offices to inquire about their relatives because a number of them have not been seen here and there. However, the police offices have told them that such persons are not with them. They are neither in jail nor does the government have any information about them. So they interpret it as if those persons have been killed.

Indian journalist: Since you began releasing political prisoners could you tell me how many so far remain in jail?

Answer: Of course, it would be difficult to give this figure because I am preoccupied.

Indian journalist: During the past 2 or 3 days about 20 big Soviet transport aircraft were spotted flying over Kabul. What would be the purpose of the flights?

Answer: I am sure you have not spotted 20 aircraft. You might have deducted 20 flights and even that north from the Soviet Union [sentence as heard] They might have been big aircraft and they have flown across us for transportation purpose.

Italian journalist: Would it be true that most of the military aircraft are flown by Soviet pilots?

Answer: I am proud to honestly and consciously declare that a single Soviet pilot does not fly military missions in our armed forces.

Italian journalist: How many Soviet military advisers are engaged in Afghanistan?

Answer: I have answered such questions earlier. I do not recall their exact figure but perhaps the number is between 1,000 and 1,500.

Italian journalist: Because an attempt was made upon your life have you thought of security measures to protect yourself?

Answer: I tell you in truth that I am too busy to think about my own safety or security. Only my police are watching me in such cases.

Italian journalist: Daud's photograph is still to be seen on your banknotes. What is the reason?

Answer: It takes time to get banknotes printed. This is a technical problem.

Indian journalist: With regard to lack of accurate publicity abroad about the current situation in Afghanistan, could this not be attributed to the shortcomings on the part of your embassies who have not undertaken to give a clear picture of the situation to the peoples of other countries? For instance, the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi could serve as a big formatative base so that realities about your revolution be expressed from there. Numerous stories surge from Islamabad and therefore these must be compiled from New Delhi, Rome, Bonn, Tokyo and other places. There should be established press offices in your embassies and these can give press conferences.

Answer: This is an excellent idea. The number of our party members was given as 15,000 prior to the revolution. After we waged the Sawr [April revolution], despite the fact that they did not have enough experience in the statecraft, the people of Afghanistan's [word indistinct] authorities were [words indistinct] faced with the problem of lack of ex-cadres. We have so far been able to appoint some of our party clique [as heard] at certain places at embassies there. To date, we have sent ambassadors to the Soviet Union, German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Iraq, Pakistan, Britain, France and Federal Republic of Germany. We have a good man as our ambassador to India who is currently a member of our party. However, I fully agree with you on principle that our embassies must be active to better propagate the real nature of our revolution and the development of our society and put to shame the imperialist liars.

BANGLADESH

HOME SECRETARY COMMENTS ON DELHI BORDER TALKS

OW161748 Hong Kong AFP in English 1740 GMT 16 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Dacca, Dec 16 (AFP)--Bangladesh and India have agreed to restrain their nationals and avoid provocations for the return of normalcy in the Muhari char area in eastern Noakhalia District bordering Tripura State of India; Bangladesh Home Secretary M.M. Zaman said here today. Mr Zaman, who led a seven-member Bangladesh delegation at the three-day official level talks on the recent border incidents along the char area and other matters of mutual concern in New Delhi, however, told reporters upon his return here that there was no formal agreement on the talks which he said were held in a "cordial and friendly atmosphere." The officials of the two countries will continue the discussions in Dacca next month, he added. Meanwhile, a joint press statement issued last night at the end of New Delhi talks from December 13 to 15 said both Bangladesh and India agreed to "exercise maximum restraint and avoid provocations with a view to ensuring a return to normaly in the Muhari char area".

The statement added: "progress had been made in identifying and removing some remaining obstacles to the implementation of the land boundary agreement of 1974".

Bangladesh and Indian border guards have exchanged fire for the last six weeks in the disputed Muhari char area over harvesting of crops there.

INDIA

BANGLADESH RIFLES FIRE ON BORDER PATROL

OW141808 Hong Kong AFP in English 1802 GMT 14 Dec 79 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 14 (AFP)--While talks between the officials of India and Bangladesh were in progress in New Delhi to defuse tension along the border, the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) today resorted to "unprovoked" firing on India's Border Security Force (BSF) patrols on the river control embankment at Belonia, in Tripura, reports reaching here tonight said. Reports said, quoting Satyabrata Basu, the state police chief, that the BDR opened four rounds of fire on the BSF from their bunkers and the latter returned the fire. No casualty on the Indian side was reported.

Referring to the firing, the state's Marxist chief minister, Nripen Chakraborty, said that Bangladesh had raised "offensive embankments" covering almost the whole of Tripura's 900 KM (550-mile) border with that country.

SPOKESMAN SAYS BORDER TALKS YIELD 'FAIR PROGRESS'

BK141622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 79 BK

[Text] At the Indo-Bangladesh border talks in New Delhi, fair progress has been made in clarifying the points of view of the two governments and in removing misunderstandings which might have existed.

An official spokesman said at the end of the second day of discussions today that both sides are hopeful about coming to an agreement on points of difference regarding the Muhari char lands and also about the means by which survey work can be completed expeditiously in implementing the 1974 border agreement. The talks, which were scheduled to conclude today, have been extended by one day. The two delegations will meet again tomorrow to finalize their suggestions on the points discussed.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

BK151529 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The following statement was made by the spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on December 15 regarding the India-Bangladesh border talks:

The Bangladesh and Indian delegations met this afternoon for considering the suggestions and recommendations made by the technical subgroups of BSF [Border Security Force], BDR [Bangladesh Rifles], JRC [Joint Rivers Commission] and JST [Joint Survey Teams].

The Indian delegation at the same time drew the attention of the Bangladesh delegation to press reports apparent in the Bangladesh press on 14 December which were factually incorrect regarding amassing of Indian troops, firing by BSF, etc.

The Indian delegation emphasised that such publicity in Bangladesh when both governments were engaged at high level discussions to resolve the problems which have recently arisen regarding the Tripura-Bangladesh border should be avoided. The delegations considered the suggestions in detail in the context of the provision of the India-Bangladesh land boundary agreement of 1974. The discussions necessitated additional clarifications as a result of which both the delegations have agreed to meet later in the night. Some interim arrangements to avoid tension in the Muhari char area are being envisaged within the framework of the boundary agreement of 1974.

The Indian delegation expects that the points of difference will be clarified in the next round of discussion and broad agreement would be reached on the subjects discussed during the current round of talks.

Joint Statement

BK160900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Dec 79 BK

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to exercise maximum restraint and avoid provocations to insure a return to normalcy in the Muhari char area in the Belonia subdivision of Tripura.

A joint press statement issued after the conclusion of the 3-day Indo-Bangladesh talks in New Delhi says that progress has been made in identifying and removing some remaining obstacles in the implementation of the land boundary agreement of 1974. The two sides also agreed to continue the discussions in Dacca next month. Meanwhile, dismantling spurs on either banks of the River Muhari has almost been completed. Disclosing this an official spokesman told the AIR [All India Radio] Agartala correspondent this morning that both the sides have dismantled eight spurs. Representatives from India and Bangladesh will inspect the area tomorrow.

Conclusion of Talks

BK161604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The 3-day official level border talks between India and Bangladesh have ended in New Delhi with both sides agreeing to exercise the maximum restraint and avoid provocations to insure return to normalcy in the Muhari char area along the Tripura border. The area has seen intermittent exchange of fire during the last two weeks. A joint press statement issued at the end of the talks said that progress has been made in identifying and removing some of the obstacles in the implementation of the land boundary agreement of 1974. The talks are to be resumed next month in Dacca.

Replying to questions, an official spokesman said during the talks arrangements for demolishing some of the spurs and embankments on both sides, which were considered disadvantageous to each other, were discussed. It was also agreed that the survey work on the ground should continue taking into account the points raised during the discussions about the alinement of boundary pillars in this sector of the border.

Informed sources in the Foreign Office said that Bangladesh had made certain demands which created some problems. These were with regard to the jurisdiction of the entire Muhari char area. Differences were also there on the location of observation posts.

PAKISTAN

AFP: AFGHANISTAN INCREASING FORCES ON BORDER

OW142321 Hong Kong AFP in English 2311 GMT 14 Dec 79 OW

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 14 (AFP)--Neighboring Afghanistan has reinforced its forces along the Pakistan border by deploying another brigade comprising 2,000 men equipped with the latest Soviet weapons, the daily JANG newspaper reported today. The brigade, with mountain guerrilla battalions and Soviet advisers, is headed by a senior Soviet officer, and posted near Chiral in Afghanistan's Bhari Kot area, the Urdu language paper added.

Quoting reports from across the border, the paper claimed that "under a Moscow plan," Afghanistan will soon attempt to cut off Chitral. Heavy snowfall is in any case due in the coming winter. Chitral, about 350 km north of here, is an important area which [words indistinct] borders the Soviet Union and China.

The newspaper had earlier drawn Pakistani Government attention to the Afghan Army's concentration in Asmar and Bhari Kot. Most of the Afghan refugees are meanwhile camped in Chitral. Afghan military aircraft recently violated Pakistan's air space and made bombing raids which injured civilians and caused heavy damage, the paper noted.

SRI LANKA

IRAN MAY RESPOND TO PROPOSALS ON HOSTAGES SOON

BK151135 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 15 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Colombo, 15 Dec (AFP)--Response from Iran to proposals made by Sri Lanka to defuse the United States-Iran crisis is expected shortly, highly placed Foreign Ministry sources said here today. The proposals were made by Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, A.C.S. Hameed, during his two visits to Tehran in the past three weeks to his Iranian counterpart, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the sources told AFP.

Mr. Hameed returned to Colombo last Thursday and declined to comment on the discussions in Tehran. Channels of communication between Tehran and Colombo remain open, the sources said.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Colombo Mr. Asghar Dastmalchi, who greeted Mr. Hameed at the airport on his return, had a long meeting with the minister at the Foreign Ministry yesterday, the sources disclosed. The sources declined to comment on yesterday's meeting between Mr. Hameed and the Iranian charge d'affaires except saying that it was held in the context of Sri Lanka's mediation efforts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hameed, who also visited New York and had consultations with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, has come under fire from opposition elements in Sri Lanka over a reported statement by him in New York that the feelings of the Iranian people must be respected in this issue. An opposition speaker asked in Parliament: "What about the feelings of the American people?" charging that Mr. Hameed had acted as an ambassador for Iran.

The Foreign Ministry sources rejected these allegations emphasising that Mr. Hameed had gone to Iran as a special emissary of Sri Lanka President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene.